

Zechariah Chapter Ten

Introduction

This chapter is a prophecy of the conversion of the Jews in the latter day, when the fullness of the Gentiles is brought in, spoken of in the preceding chapter #Zec 9:1-17. It begins with an exhortation to ask rain of the Lord; denounces wrath upon his enemies; and consists of various promises to his people. The exhortation to ask rain is in #Zec 10:1 to which encouragement is given from its being of the Lord, from his willingness to grant it, and from the fruitfulness occasioned by it. The vanity of idols, and idolaters, who cannot give it, is exposed; and the distress and confusion they were thrown into is observed, #Zec 10:2. The anger of the Lord against the principal of them is declared; and his gracious visitation of the people of the Jews, whom he will honor and glorify, is noted, #Zec 10:3 the people whom the Messiah sprung and a greater glory cannot be enjoyed, #Zec 10:4 and then we find various promises, relating to them; as of victory over their enemies, through the presence of the Lord with them, #Zec 10:5 of strength and salvation to them, as owing to his free grace and mercy, #Zec 10:6 of inward spiritual joy in them and theirs, #Zec 10:7 of their effectual calling and spiritual increase, in consequence of redeeming grace, #Zec 10:8 of their having a name and a place in Gospel churches, where they will remember the Lord, and live with their children, being converted, #Zec 10:9 which conversion of theirs is represented in terms alluding to their deliverance from Egypt and Babylon, #Zec 10:10,11 and the chapter is concluded with a promise of spiritual strength, so that they shall continue in their profession of faith in Christ, and persevere therein to the end, #Zec 10:12.

10:1 Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; [so] the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

You have not because you ask not comes to mind as I read this verse. God has made great promises to us and we know that God is able to perfectly do all that He wills. This verse is most likely pointing to the times of Christ which would also mean our present time as being this time of latter rains or blessings. Christ came and made promises, yet many are not blessed because they will not humble themselves before God and ask. This is true in the church, the family of God as well as the world outside in darkness. When the Bible says no one has ever sought God most understand and agree. A sad truth however is that we do not seek God often enough or persistent enough inside the covenant family.

2 For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because [there was] no shepherd.

God reveals Himself and calls Israel into being as His people and a nation from the bonds of Egypt. From day one there are many in the covenant family that doubt and who continue to worship idols not God only.

Because of this God scattered His chosen people and allowed them to be carried into bondage again. Having now called His people out of bondage again God reminds them how all these bad things happened because they trusted in idols and not Him. How His glory departed and they were left with no one to lead them. God had always led the people first by prophets, then prophets and judges when needed militarily and finally at the insistence of the people and not of God's first choice for the people by kings. Throughout all of the times however God had before the people His prophets who could lead them in the ways of God. Nonetheless the people turn to idols and psychics not God for advice and leading in the right paths. The Psychic Network isn't just of twentieth century man. Ultimately we will see God set aside His chosen people for a season and leave them without a shepherd of any kind to lead the. Their only hope was the Word of God given to them to keep forever. Paul speaks of this and says one of the primary advantages of being a Jew was that God first gave to them His holy word. This is also a revelation of the renewal of the Jews under the Messiah to come. This whole book is Messianic, more so than any other Old Testament book in my opinion. The message of conversion is to the Jews who for the most part will reject it in the coming of Christ. However so does spiritual Israel, the Gentile church that will find its birth in the incarnation of Christ. There are elements of this chapter that point to the end times for the ultimate salvation of all of God's chosen. This end times for the last ingathering of God's people applies to us as well as the Jews. The church soon departs and sets idols before the people (The Roman Catholic Church) causing the glory of God to once more be withdrawn from the altar of His people.

3 Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle.

We see God raise up His people and strike down great empires around them with very small armies thus God punished the goats or those who would not bow before Him as God. Even the mighty Greek armies would fall as well as Rome in the latter days of the first church. God used His people to literally conquer the known world. AT the same time God is angry with the shepherds He has put over His people for not leading the people in the paths they should to worship God alone. This is also true of the church and is seen in the sinful excesses of the church very early after the death of Christ. What we know as the Roman Catholic Church replaced the Jewish nation as the chosen people of God. Not to the exclusion of the Jews, but the inclusion of people of all nations. The failure of Israel in the Old Testament becomes the failure of the church in the New Testament.

4 Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together.

Out of the chosen nation, Israel came the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This is a reference to the first coming of Christ. Several symbols of Christ are used and it is clear from their literature the Jews knew Christ was their Messiah and read this verse to mean just this. Thus we see the corner stone used of Christ elsewhere as well as the nail in a sure place. The battle bow or the one to whom the battle belongs its winner. The last sentence could read Out of Israel comes the exactor or Judge of all, again pointing to Christ as the judge or the one who will extract judgment and give rewards in the end times.

5 ¶ And they shall be as mighty [men], which tread down [their enemies] in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD [is] with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.

I believe this speaks of converted Jews as we find them in the first church. This is a reference in particular to the apostles and their followers going forth in the name of the Lord, a few which will very literally conquer the whole world with the Gospel. They will succeed because God is with them and it is Christ who ultimately fights the battle and not these men of their own meager abilities and strength.

6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as youth I had not cast them off: for I [am] the LORD their God, and will hear them.

This is the promise of salvation to God's people. They will be as youth that is they will be as if they had not sinned against me. It is clear that when a sinner repents and is converted that their sins are removed as far from them as the East is from the West and they are made white as snow, as youth before they sinned against God. While we know all have sinned and because of the fall we are conceived and born in sin, yet there is a time of innocence so to speak when we have not actually sinned against God and it is to this age of innocence that god says He will restore His people, making them as if they had never sinned against Him. Not only does God create this new person from the sinful flesh before Him, God continues then to be with them and to hear their needs and know of their hurts which are God's own hurts and for which God will personally take vengeance for them. Be still and watch God fight your battle s before you. Be quiet and hear God speak for His people. Wait upon the Lord and know His blessings that are beyond our wildest imaginations. From the past we know the sureness of God's word,. This history should make us firm in our convictions to face the future, yet it appears man is destined to repeat history over and over.

7 And [they of] Ephraim shall be like a mighty [man], and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see [it], and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.

Or the remnant of my scattered people shall come together and rejoice. The people of God though scattered and battered by the world will in that day see these things with their own eyes come to pass.

8 I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.

This should more literally read I will whistle for them. It more properly refers to the forming of the lips as when a mother coos to a babe in arms to call to them and comfort them. So it says God will personally call forth His people. God will redeem His people and there is no other redemption. Over and over Christ says He is the only way of salvation. Yet the church today seems determined to say there are alternatives. In so doing they have denied God. God and God alone calls His people effectually and eternally to Christ. The New Testament goes to great ends to show how this is true in the Old Testament. Christ personally told the Jews that their Scripture (the Old Testament) spoke of Him. Constantly and consistently from cover to cover the Bible declares all is of Christ and that His salvation is for His elect alone throughout the ages. That all salvation is of God and man has nothing to do with it. Yet the majority of churches today teach another Gospel in which man chooses to serve God. How can the vanity of the imagination of man replace the truth of God's own word? How silly and foolish can man be?

9 And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.

This is the Jew when they hear God's word and are effectually called to Him. This we see made visible on earth in the call of the Jews at Pentecost from which event the Gospel is taken to the ends of the earth.

10 I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and [place] shall not be found for them.

The Jews render this passage, "As I bought them out of Egypt so I will bring them out of captivity." Bringing them to Gilead, which literally means "a heap of testimonies." The history of the Jews in bondage is a symbol of the release from all earthly bondage people have when they place themselves in bondage to God alone. "Place shall not be found for them" refers to the number present and not that there is no such place

which makes no sense since God is bringing them to this place. It is a testimony of how far and to how many God has put forth His hand and taken for His own people. The small remnant there at the moment trying to rebuild the city and its temple were not all that was included in God's kingdom. They were not alone in the world. Likewise throughout the Bible God assures His people they are not alone to take heart and not faint at the task before them there are more than enough people to accomplish God's will on earth. As we read this we too can know we are not alone in this world we do not fight alone in vanity, but in the sureness of the presence and blessing of God in and on our lives.

11 And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart away.

The sea or the Gentile nations symbolic not only of a people but of a people who are not of God's family. Every age has had its "kings" that would do away with the God of Christianity yet from generation to generation God's people have prevailed and the Gospel continues to go forth as a living word of hope in a dry and dying land even as the latter rains bring life to the fields and hope to the heart of the planters. All bondages shall be broken and the captive shall be taken captive which the Bible says of Jesus Christ at the time of His ascension.

12 And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, says the LORD.

To walk up and down meaning the freedom to serve God and praise His holy name without fear or interference is coming. In some places this has been true for a season as it was once in this so-called nation of ours. But no matter what else happens we know the day of judgment is before us and we shall live in such bliss with the glory of God personally in our midst in that New Jerusalem, that city made not with hands coming down from heaven and God in the last day. This glorious time and place are real and are the hope of faith in Christ delivered to the saints once and for all times. As Paul asks, if God be for us, who can stand against us? Similarly, In Christ we can do all things, for with God all things are possible. Take heart then for what misery of this age is of more worth than the glory we already have in Christ?